WENDELL POST

Vol. XIII No. 2 Aug. - Sept. 1990 50¢

WOMAN'S HOME BOMBED

I hadn't relized the extent to which the "firecracker throwers" had gone overboard the July 4 holiday until reading the message to them written by Sharon Adams that was tacked on the Country Store bulletin board. The fact that some person (and I would venture to guess it included more than one person) actually threw an M80 into someone else's home was very scarry to read about. Sharon wrote that her two young children were upstairs sleeping at the time and in the confusion of the explosion she feared that the house was on fire. The "bomb" landed in the very room she was sitting. I had thought that the noise of firecrackers on July 4th was merely the harmless fun of a few young celebrants. I didn't know at the time that people's homes and workshops were being terrorized.

Sharon's home was not the only place attacked. I have since spoken to two other people who suffered property damage and mental distress. One of whom is recovering from cancer. These people also have a very good idea of who is respible for the harrassment.

As a mother and homemaker in Wendell I feel very concerned that nothing seems to be taking place in our community to address this sort of violence. I hate to imagine that I too could be relaxing in my home with my family and that someone could throw a potential bomb into my home with impunity. This is not the way of life that I had envisioned upon moving to the country. It is certainly not the sort of thing that represents my past experience as a resident of Wendell. So far kindness and mutual respect have been the norm.

Now I don't necessarily think that the perpetraters should be locked up or anything like that. But I do think that some sort of accountability is in order. Be it restitution for damages and a public apology at least some responsibility should be taken for such violent actions.

It is fortunate that the firecracker did not blow up in Sharon's face and blind her or one of her children. One can only hope that whoever did this matures over the next year and exercises some concern for others the next time they are playing with their dangerous toys.

Eileen Sauvageau

Old Home Day 1990 Pictures ... INSIDE

Taking home the prize at Old Home Day, Marcelle Feltman and family.

THE OTHER ECONOMIC SUMMIT

After spending a long, hot, and exciting week in Houston taking part in "The Other Economic Summit" (TOES), it was an especially refreshing celebration for us to return home to Wendell just in time for Old Home Day. It seems to us that many of the values that were called for in Houston TOES, "THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE FOR A CHANGE,"--ecological and environmental sustainability, respect for cultural diversity, community activism (thinking globally, acting locally), eco-feminist principles, to name a few -- are already being creatively expressed and lived right here in Wendell. Certainly Wendell could serve as a better model than Houston of sane and sustainable community living.

Each year heads of the world's richest industrial nations, dubbed the G-7, (USA, Canada, Great Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, and Japan) meet to congratulate themselves and formulate economic policies that further their mutual interests while having significant impact on the entire planet. Since 1984, TOES has organized and presented a counter summit to represent peoples, perspectives and concerns not given adequate attention by the G-7. In a nut shell, TOES challenges the G-7 economic agenda and policies as not compatible with ecological and environmental sustainability and global economic justice.

cont. pg. 13 ⇒

the Wendell Post

Vol. XIII No. 2

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A Thousand Pardons to Those Omitted or MisNamed, or Misspelled, or otherwise Offended.

Photography: Joy Gorzacowski

Thanks to Amy Hubert for the front page artwork!

***Post policy is that every article be signed. We regret author credit omissions where authorship unknown.

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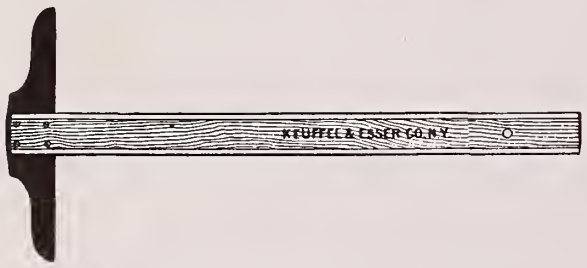


WENDELL ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

Plans are underway to organize a craft and art show to take place on the weekend just before or after Thanksgiving. The idea is to give Wendell artists and others from surrounding a place to show their talents before the Christmas holiday. Perhaps with the result of an annual event. If you have ideas or interest please contact Eileen Sauvageau at 544-3223 so we can set a meeting time and place. The more people involved in putting this thing together the better it will be.

Eileen Sauvageau

TILE WITH STYLE
• Ceramic Tile Installation •
JANET BURSTEIN
Fine Floor, Kitchen, Bathroom
• and Decorative Tile •
S.R. 71 E. WENDELL, MA. 01379
508-544-7938

ANNOUNCEMENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

AA MEETING

OPEN A.A. MEETING FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Non-smoking, THURSDAYS 6-7p.m.
Wendell Meeting House

SCHOOL TO EXPAND

Lake Grove Maple Valley is interested in purchasing the Sogard property on Wendell Depot Road as an addition to its other facilities on that road. (It currently owns the large farmhouse and other buildings at the corner of Farley Road, as well as the white house set back on the east side a quarter of a mile closer to the center of Town).

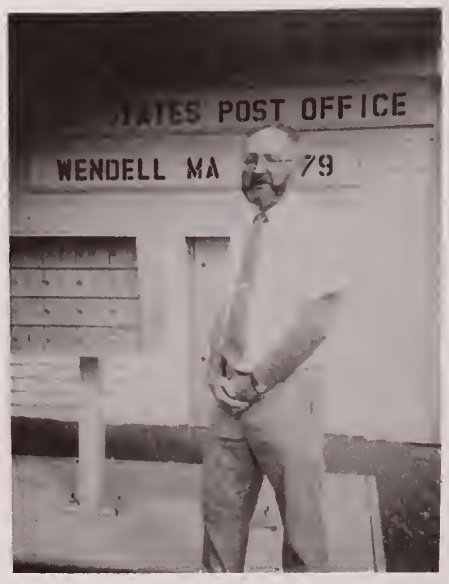
The property has been on the market for several months. Purchase of the Sogard property would expand the program that already exists at Maple Valley.

Selectboard Member Anne Zak invited residents with comments to contact her or another board member.

Open to Sing?

"UNCOVERING THE VOICE" LEARNING GROUP

Anyone interested in working with voice excerises, tone and musical things on a regular basis? No experience required, just joy enthusiam and an openess to explore and learn. Please contact Carlen 544-8457. Starting late September.



NEW POST OFFICE!

Wendell Center Postmaster, Mr. Charles O'Dowd held an open house recently to give the townspeople an opportunity to view the inner workings of our new Post Office.

Wendell Post Office Hours

Wendell Center

Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30-1:00 & 2:30-5
Saturday 8:00-12:00

Commercial Photography
Wendell Ma.
544-3529
Edward Tudice
544-2739

WENDELL ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL

WENDELL ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL
c/o Chairperson Kate Gilday
P.O. Box 125
Wendell, MA 01379

CONTACT: Ina Phelps
(508) 544-2735

Announcing application deadlines and guidelines. Description of projects recently approved.

The Wendell Arts Lottery Council is accepting applications for the fall funding cycle from individuals and organizations for arts and humanities projects that benefit people in the community. The deadline for these applications is September 13th.

Please submit modest budget proposals because money is limited. Applications for Performing Arts Students Series (PASS) funds are also available. The deadline for PASS applications is October 1st. Reimbursement funds for both arts grants and PASS will be available in January or February 1991.

Application forms with their instructions are now available at the Wendell Library, the Wendell Post Office, from council members Kate Gilday, Ina Phelps, Matt and Laurie Stamell, Marcella Feltman, Nancy Hogerheide and Karen Copeland. The original typed application plus 2 copies is to be returned to Wendell Arts Lottery Council, care of Chairperson, Kate Gilday, Locks Village Road, Wendell.

The following projects were approved by the Council in the spring cycle: Foolsproof Follies, a performance of humor and theatrical expertise in circus skills and a workshop which took place on July 14 at Wendell Old Home Day; the design and production of four rats costumes by Nancy Cole, textile & fashion design artist, for use in performance by members of the Wendell Recycling Transfer Station (RATS) to take place in local school and at town events for the purpose of educating, entertaining and inspiring townsfolk of all ages to do more recycling; a writing workshop and a reading to take place in Wendell by author Nina Crowe Newington, open free to any Wendell resident interested in writing, regardless of experience; a folk music and storytelling performance and workshop to be held at Swift River School by Tim Von Egmond; and a performance by Sara Elston, puppeteer, Elfin Puppet Theatre also at Swift River School which will focus on the issue of personal safety to be followed by an audience participation discussion on this matter and a demonstration on how puppets work.

INTRO to AKIDO

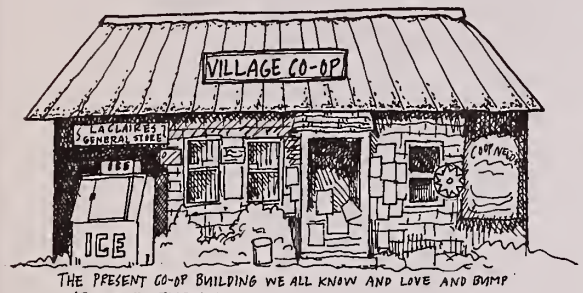
Introductory to Aikido

This is a six week introductory course to Aikido. Participants will learn how to fall & roll, the basic principles of Aikido, techniques for defense, and methods for relaxation and stress reduction.

Aikido's dynamic and fluid style is unique in that its techniques teach ways to defend without having to hurt the attacker. Physical strength is an asset, but is not necessarily needed in the defensive techniques of Aikido.

Classes will be held at the Swift River School on Wednesdays, starting the first week in October 6:00-7:30. The fee is $20. Please call 544-2226 for registration.

THE VILLAGE CO-OPERATIVE GETS A NEW BUILDING



THE PRESENT CO-OP BUILDING WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE AND BUMP AROUND IN TOGETHER....

Many residents of our town buy much of their food from the Village Co-op at Moore's Corner where Rattlesnake Gutter Road branches off from North Leverett Road, A new building for the co-op is now being constructed in the fork of the roads. It has been badly needed for a long time. The manager, Julie Shively, has used all possible ingenuity to find enough space for the multitude of varieties of food that we all demand nowadays. When two customers want to pass in any of the narrow alleys between shelves, one says "excuse me!" while the other tries to be as thin as possible leaning over to one side. The building lies on the bank of a mountain stream where a bathroom is prohibited because it might pollute the water, a hardship for anyone working there for several hours. And there is no separate room for a brief rest or snack. One thing that Julie finds particularly disconcerting is that all deliveries must be made through the door that is used by customers, since the building has only one door. Julie's successful management of the store in such adverse conditions is a remarkable achievement.

For several years the new building was a day-dream. No money for it. Then, early in 1989 Dan Bennet, Julie's husband who also works for the co-op, received a legacy and in June of that year he bought the plot of land where the building is now going up. He established a partnership to construct the building and lease it to the co-op, with an option to purchase. Dan is the general partner of the partnership to which he is contributing the land and much hard work. The partnership has borrowed $100,000 from a bank to pay for construction, and has invited other residents of our area to become limited partners by contributing funds to help pay for construction and after the building is completed to pay down the debts of the partnership.

Dan planned and designed the building. In addition, he had to work for a whole year to get from local authorities the necessary permission to build. Finally, on July 24 of this year concrete was poured for the foundations and we expect that the building will be ready for use this fall, hopefully by the end of October. To get the permit, Dan had to weave his way through a labyrinth of regulations, some due to human error, some to a legitimate effort to protect the environment, including its aesthetic qualities, some to the accumulation over time of band aids on problems of detail arising now and again.

A zoning law of 1959 classes Moore's Corner as village residence, which probably resulted from an oversight since that spot had been used commercially for over two centuries. It has been conjectured that locations to be zoned commercial were identified by sticking red dots on a map and the red dot over Moore's corner had accidentally fallen off. A town meeting last November was persuaded to remedy this by an amendment to the zoning law that allowed general stores to be set up in places zoned village residential, subject to approval by the Planning Board in each case. That constraint was intended to avoid arbitrary placement of convenience stores by companies having chains of them, but it also required extra work contacting the Planning Board, meeting with them and submitting whatever information they called for.

Some of the formalities required seem hard to justify. A well had to be drilled before a building permit could be applied for. Our well was drilled last April before we even knew for sure that we would be allowed to build. In applying for the building permit application had to be made first to the county building inspector who was required to reject it. That rejection authorized the applicant to approach the township zoning board to apply for clearance pursuant to the November amendment to the zoning law, in order to secure authorization to reapply to the building inspector for a permit. Those are some of the obstacles that Dan and Julie surmounted.

Most everyone seems to think that government regulations are always Byzantine and just can't be any other way. But they can, if there's a will to design, after study, a streamlined system of rules. A commission could be appointed to do that.

Some unreasonable constraints by the state building code have also caused problems. The code allows the use of plastic water pipes in residential but not in commercial buildings, where copper or iron must be used. There one can smell the influence of the plumbing interests, since the cost of labor and materials for installing copper pipe is about twice that for plastic. Dan, not knowing this, had planned the building for plastic pipe, and when he learned of that rule he had to change the cost estimate and increase the amount of the bank loan applied for.

The bank loan of $100,000 was finally secured on July 5th in spite of a moratorium on commercial loans now being observed by banks, because this is a local community project from local government authorities that probably would not have been granted otherwise.

Cooperatives are in many ways preferable to chain stores owned by big companies. The manager of a local co-op tends to be more sensitive to the desires and tastes of customers than the CEO of a big company. In our neighborhood where the general educational level is relatively high there are many who care for their health and try to buy wholesome foods. The Village Cooperative sells more organic produce than any other store near here. Members of a co-op, since it is their enterprise, are ready to be helpful. Most of us bring back our paper and plastic bags for re-use. One time when I had recently joined I brought in a handful of bags and an egg carton which I held up and asked Julie, "Do you want to re-use this too?", a man standing next to me said "Yes! My hens lay eggs but they don't lay egg cartons." The eggs at the co-op come from just a little way up the road, and in general Julie gets as much as possible from local producers. Co-ops keep money in their neighborhood and their managements are democratic.

Julian Wadleigh

Gingerbread House
HOMEMADE FOODS AND IMPORTED PRODUCTS
Famous For Our Sandwiches
24 SOUTH MAIN ST., ORANGE, MA 544-8363

SUMMERTIME FOR KIDS

What have kids in Wendell been doing this summer anyway? One event that was attended by 30 children in the town was a concert starring local singer-storyteller Lester Scafidi. The children sang songs like "Peanut Butter and Jelly", "Inch by Inch", and "Mail Myself to You" together on the library lawn. This event was sponsored by the Friends of the Wendell Free Library. After the program ended, children gathered on the common for a friendly game of soccer. Only the coming of night ended the game as happy and tired boys and girls clammered into cars to go home and dream.

Wendell Old Home Day certainly was a gala day for all of our children! The parade was wonderful with costumes and kazoos, decorated bikes and singing, 'life size puppets and a banner that boasts "CELEBRATE WENDELL", and that's what we all did!!

Swimming lessons are yet another meeting place and learning experience for our children. These took place from July 30-Aug.10 at Lake Wyola. Instructors are Kathy Carey and Gale Snow of Shutesbury. If you frequent Ruggles Pond and Laurel Lake you may see our "little fish" practicing their newly acquired skills.

I interviewed a few children recently and asked, "What have you been doing this summer?"

Tegan Mannino has "been going to the beach and running around."

Arial Barilla has been "seeing fireworks and singing."

Asha Wild is going to Provincetown and to Horseback Riding Camp.

Ishanna Strazzero is going to P'Town on the Cape and going to Music Camp.

Jesse Davis has been "having fun swimming and studying insects."

Christopher Davis has been using his butterfly net to study insects. Both boys enjoyed a trip to Nantucket and two weeks at Traprock Peace Camp.

Tavi Wings enjoyed a trip to her grandma and grandpa's.

Brianna Drohen went sailing, to camp, and to the beach.

Mara Gross enjoyed a vacation in California (Disneyland), Camp Apex, Drama Camp at Mt.Wachusett and had a birthday.

Peter J. Diemand went to Camp Howe and has enjoyed camping at Barton Cove, and has been doing a lot of swimming!

Adam Feltman has been swimming, and went to see the "Velveteen Rabbit" on Sunday. "We just relax as a family."

Lindsay Feltman says, "I like to play with my dolly and I've been playing outside."

Caralee Manley went on a trip to Pennsylvania and to the museums in Washington, D.C. and "on the way there was a terrible thunderstorm."

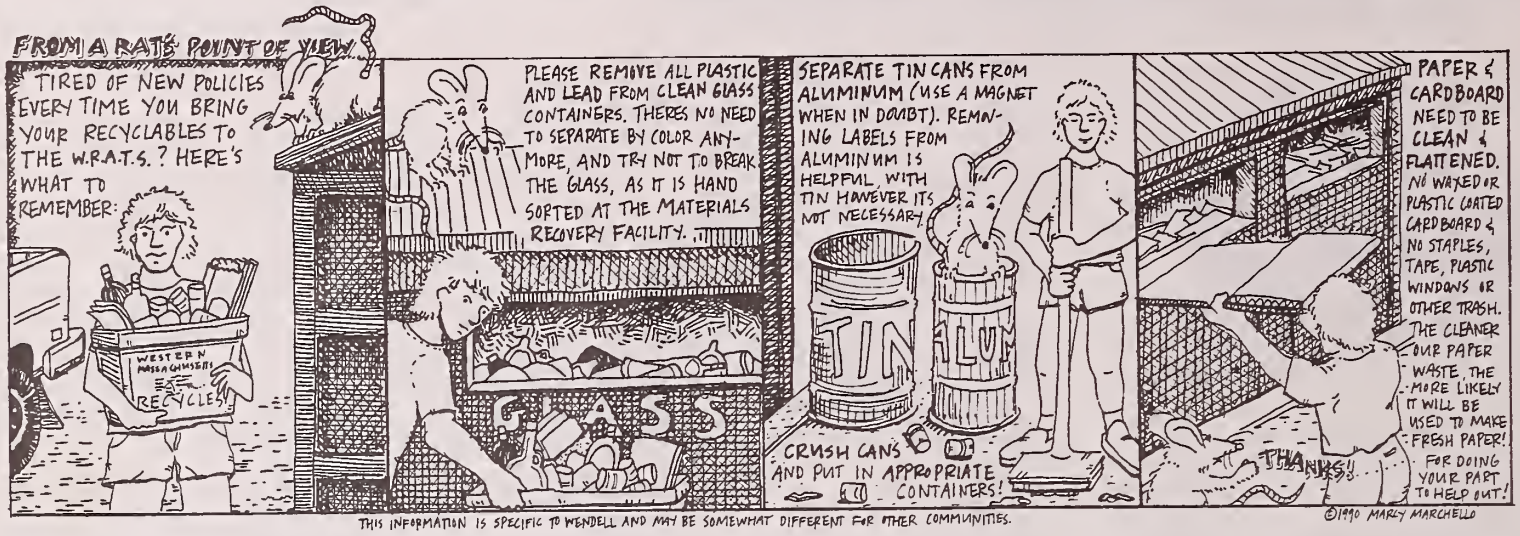
Seth Lawrence Slavas said, "we went to Maine and I got my hair cut and we've been in boats."

So there you have it, right from the source! And, oh yes, as this goes to press, another event for children is about to happen, the Character Ball, sponsored by the Friends of the Wendell Free Library. Rumor has it that Nate the Great, Bugs Bunny, Tom Sawyer (to name a few) will be there.

Sounds like the summer is going well and September will be here for those school bells to ring, sooner than we know it!!

Mez Davis

Horseshoeing
Tony Diemand 544-2851



THIS INFORMATION IS SPECIFIC TO WENDELL AND MAY BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FOR OTHER COMMUNITIES.

W.R.A.T.S. POLICY REMINDER

Here's a reminder for those who live in Wendell and some information for summer folks about the basic policies at the Recycling and Transfer Station.

To dispose of lightweight, compressible household trash, you'll need to purchase a Compactor Card, either at the W.R.A.T.S. or Town Hall. They cost $15 or $25, depending on the volume of trash you anticipate bringing, and are good until the purchased value is used up. You can bring your clean recyclables (glass, cans, paper, cardboard, metal, plastic bags, and recyclable plastic containers) at no charge, so the more you separate your trash, the longer your compactor card will last and the better off our environment will be.

Heavier, non-compressible materials go into the Open Top and should be broken down as much as possible beforehand. The first 5 cubic feet are free each time you come, however, it costs $1.00 per cubic foot after that, so the more you can break down old furniture and other items, the less it will cost you to dispose of it. We accept reuseable items for the Free Store, where you can brouse for handy house and yard assessories. Appliances may be dropped off for $10 each and tires for $1 - $3 each, depending on size and rim.

We do not accept hazardous waste - this includes batteries, motor oil and filters, oil-based paints and stains, aerosol cans, and similar items. Please save them for hazardous waste collection days.

Thanks for doing your part to keep Wendell clean!

Marcy Marchello

PLASTICS RECYCLING

Plastics recycling will begin at the W.R.A.T.S. starting September 1st. Separate out and bring your plastic bottles and containers that are marked 1 or 2 or 3 on the bottom of the plastic container. This number indicates the type of plastic that the bottle or container is made from. There are seven possible types (i.e. code 1 thru 7), of plastic that the plastic industry has recently coded to facillitate collection for recycling purposes. The W.R.A.T.S. will be accepting :

1 P.E.T. (polyethlene terephthalate)
*clear or green tinted soft drink bottles;

2 H.D.P.E. (high density polyethylene)
*not colored- gallon and half gallon milk, distilled and spring water bottles, orange juice and punch/drink containers
*colored- Liquid laundry detergent bleach, fabric softener, skin lotions, anti-freeze, windshield washing fluid

3 V.(vinyl or poly vinyl)
*clear dry laundry detergent containers, cooking oil bottles, window cleaning products

The containers should be rinsed and caps removed before coming to the W.R.A.T.S. The W.R.A.T.S. will not accept any plastic container that has toxic waste residue such as motor oil or transmission fluid. All plastics collected at the W.R.A.T.S. will be brought to Hudson Trucking in Greenfield. A more detailed list of brand name products is available at the W.R.A.T.S.

Further Information on Plastics:

In addition to newspaper, magazines, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, glass bottles, tin and aluminum cans, recycling programs are now beginning to include plastics.

Packaging represents 30% of the total waste generated in the U.S. annually. Most of this is paper(48%), then glass(25%), followed by plastics (13%), and finally metals (9%), and other(5%). A major focus of recycling centers is to recover at least this percentage (30%) represented by packaging, removing these materials from the waste stream.

About half of plastics packaging consists of bottles and containers. With the new coding system, these plastics can now be collected and sorted very readily and marketed to secondary manufacturers.

Soft drink, milk and water and juice bottles comprise a major portion of plastic bottles. And 85% of all plastic bottles are composed of two readily recyclable polymers: P.E.T. (1) and H.D.P.E. (2). These plastics upon collection are used again for other products. P.E.T. can be re-manufactured into fibers used for carpet face yarns, fiberfill, paint brushes, twine and rope. H.D.P.E. is re-manufactured into lumber substitutes for boat piers, pallets, garden furniture, pipe, toys, pails, drums, crates, flowerpots. V. (3) may be re-used for drainage, sewer and irrigation pipe, thermal sheet, floor tile, outdoor furniture,fencing, truck bed liners, mats, general purpose containers.

The other half of plastics packaging consists of plastic film. This is now being collected at several large chain stores like Shop and Save in the form of plastic bags.

More and more communities are now looking at plastics as the next recyclable to come "on line". An added incentive is economics. Plastics have a high value second only to aluminum. This may mean that communities who participate in plastics recycling could recieve some revenues once the marketing infrastructure (collecting, shipping, sales to end-users) is cooperatively established.

Carlen Adams Rigrod

Sustainable Sanitation Singers
Old Home Day

ANOTHER FREE BOX UPDATE

Most weeks the Wendell Free Box recêives an abundance of clothing. The members of the Free Box committee sort it, and the excess clothing is brought to either the Survival Centers or the Salvation Army.

The past few months an effort has been made to send clothing from the Free Box to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. There are 7,000 to 8,000 people who are in desperate need living at Pine Ridge, one of the poorest communities in the United States. Unemployment is 80%. Life expectancy is about 1/3 shorter than in the rest of the United States. Several hundred people are living in unheated houses. They desperately need warm winter clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, food, and money.

On August 4th a benefit coffee-house was held at the Town Hall featuring Jim Scott. Enough money was made to pay postage on 20 to 25 more boxes of clothing to be shipped to the Reservation. Thank you all for your support. For more information about this project please contact Barbara Liberty at 544-7561.

The Free Box Committee will soon be repainting the Free Box and we can always use help in many ways. If you are interested you can call Dor at 544-8961.

Barbara Liberty

WENDELL R.A.T.

costume design by Nancy Cole,
funded by the Mass. Arts Lottery.

RECYCLING: A COMMENTARY

Used to be "trash" was a word you could feel comfortable about. Never hazy or vague trash always referred to the stuff that was no good, unusable, old or broken and when it included "garbage" could be grungy dirty goopy slimy smelly and teeming with unmentionable living things. Clearly trash was trash and the thing to do with trash was to "throw it away", "dump it" (somewhere), or take it to the "town dump". It gets buried , burned or taken away and that's that. Any "recycling" belonged to time-honored souls who had an eye for goodly, useable items and a hankering for repair.

Well, recycling has become a national theme. Things have changed en masse (life's gift to life), and it is no longer possible to think and do the way we used to. What used to be "trash" -isn't, and even "the dump" has taken on a different function. Cardboard, paper, mag.'s, tin cans, aluminum, ferrous are "recyclables", are not buried, have a growing value and are a re-useable source of ingredients for further-made goods. "Garbage" or food scrap (etc.) is finding its' way out of black plastic bags back into the compost pile, which farmers, homesteaders and gardners alike have always cherished as fertile "gold" for the soil. What has been out of sight out of mind, or belonged to the realm of untouchables is being thought about differently.

Recycling, composting are certainly not new ideas but they have been lost or devalued in the modern way of thinking. And it's a long way out, not very comfortable or familiar, requires extra effort and sometimes a leap of faith: That this solution- "reduce, reuse, recycle"- is a positive community plan that works, evolves and fundamently is born from an awareness that life matters. Plants, flora, fauna, clean earth air water ocean and people- all life matters. A simple thought. An extraordinary challenge. To cherish and inwardly connect with what seems insignificant or unrelated or even threatening to previous notions. How well communities meet the issues at hand now in the '90's depends on how willing we are to change precedent and acknowledge what has been viewed as an insignificant problem. Trash and the toxic buildup in the "back 40" dramically calls us individually and as a community to question our actions, and to more diligently seek right relation amongst ourselves and with the Natural World.

Carlen Adams Rigrod

HAZ-WASTE RECYCING FACILITY PROPOSED

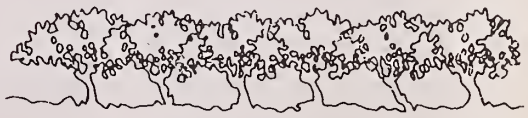
Wendell has an interest in a proposed recycling plant that is courting the Town of Orange. Recontek, Inc. would remove and recycle the metals from hazardous industrial sludge at a site near Mahar Regional High School. It is working with the state on siting the facility.

The plant is one of the first of its kind. An identical plant is scheduled to open soon in Newman, Illinois. Both plants will recycle four thousand tons of potentially hazardous materials per month.

The benefits and potential problems will be discussed at upcoming hearings with the state, the Town of Orange, and the abuttors. Trucks will bring wastes to the facility, along roads leading to Orange. Trucks will also pick up the heavy metals and the leftovers from the process and take the material away. There will be air emissions and residue, controlled by federal and state emissions standards, but nonetheless degrading the air quality downwind. The proximity to the school, airport and town wells has caused concern.

Research on these issues is made timely by the public hearing scheduled August 18. Public comments on this phase of the proposal will be taken until August 24.

Any questions, call Nina Keller, 544-2857.



TREE WORKSHOP

On August 4, a workshop, conducted by Marcia Fortune, on People Pressure on Trees was held on the Town Common. Participants toured the trees around the Common and library. Marcia directed us to an abundance of examples of how we make life difficult for trees to live in the center of Town.

A sampling of the various ills done to the typical tree on the Common would begin with improper planting techniques.

We observed trees planted both too deeply and too shallow, often with excessive mounding of bark mulch around the base of the tree. One young tree was simply planted out of plumb and will spend the rest of its life trying to compensate. On this same tree guy wires were employed but rigged up in a way to seemingly defeat their purpose.

If our trees overcome these initial obstacles, they can look forward to further abuse. We saw instances of trees being completely girdled by weed wackers. We viewed deep frost cracks resulting from poorly pruned branches. And many of the trees on the Common are in decline from the effects of soil compaction.

Marcia made 3 recommendations at the end of the walk. First, that no more trees be planted on the Common until a comprehensive plan exists for future changes on the Common and that any construction involving roads or parking lots be completed before planting. Second, that sugar maples be avoided as a street tree. They are relatively intolerant to most stresses associated with the activities of people such as site changes, root injuries, deicing salt, poor soil conditions, soil moisture extremes, and frequent mounding. And last, that the large tree at the playground next to the old preschool building be cut down as a health hazard.

The participants were unanimous in their appreciation for the information and insight presented by Marcia. She has offered her technical expertise to any future planting endeavors by the Town. This workshop was facilitated by Bear Mountain Preservation Association and other concerned citizens.

Stephen Broll

TEL. (413) 773-9408

BENNETT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
Commercial Excavating Contractors

DEAN BENNETT
PRESIDENT

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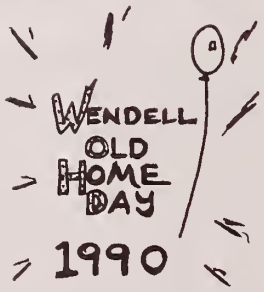

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SOLAR BOX COOKING

Ever wanted to use some of that hot summer sun to cook your food outside instead of adding more heat to your kitchen by using an indoor oven? Some of us have been doing that this year, having made our cookers using a wonderfully environment and builder-friendly, effective design figured out a woman in Tempe, Arizona.

How did we hear about it? A friend here was sent directions and info from her son on the west coast, an energy-efficiency/activist kind of person who was getting involved in using hes interests and skills in facilitating broad use of this design in climes where the practice of open wood fires for cooking spreads deforestation, takes hours per day for women and children to gather wood and means women spend hours per day bent over smokey fores tending the cooking.

From an interview last fall between the designer and our west coast connection:
Mark Aalfs: "Barbara, how did you get started with solar cooking?"

Barbara Kerr: "I was an environmentalist working in air pollution control and other things. As a result of the first Earth Day, many of my friends and I got more deeply involved in the environmental movement. We were trying to develop earth-conscious homemaking as a viable lifestyle for people in the city. I didn't want to do things that required a lot of driving. I started doing things in my yard.

"I got a book on solar science projects and just started making solar cookers. It was fun. I was making all kinds of solar cookers. I heard that in India they were doing some solar cooking with a box. I couldn't find anything in the library, but the idea kept haunting me. So I put together a box. I later found out that the box I made was not much like the ones in India. Theirs were brick boxes in the ground insulated with straw.

"I was involved in some of the anti-nuclear work here in Arizona. For all of 1976 my house and Sherry Cole's house were the base for the nuclear safety initiative. The petition workers were continually coming and going. Meanwhile, I had all of the experimental solar cookers set up in my back yard. Now you see, my house is only 1400 sq. ft. Cooking inside was out of the question for this crowd. So we used the resources at hand - my back yard, the unique assortment of solar cooking hardware, (could this be mistaken for a sculpture garden?), and the sun. People were hungry. So we just cooked the food on any and all of the designs.

"Now some of these cookers were far out. And a good number failed. I had several of the parabolics - troughs as well as the dishes. I tried the slant faced ones, both the rectangular and square ones. I've always been a bit of a tinkerer. I like to try new things.

"The complexity that is often associated with the technology is a factor that has worked against the solar cooking concept. I was trying to simplify the technology. Our solar box is so simple that it disappears below the line of sight of people that are looking for 'Technology.' They can't see that this box must be taken seriously. In our technical age a very simple thing is often suspect.

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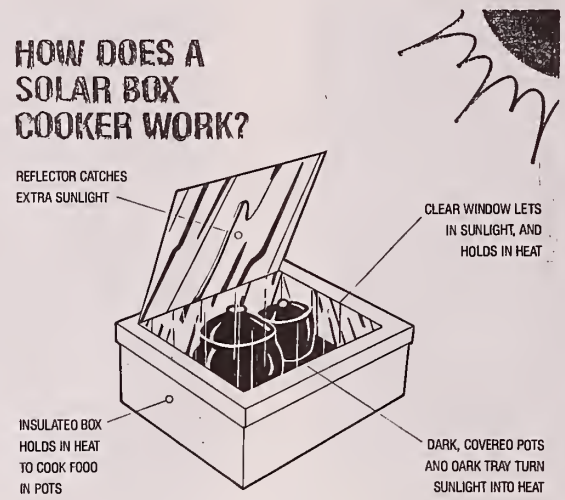

"In my back yard, we just needed to get food cooked for a lot of people. Our analysis showed clearly that the box had done the most cooking. All I had to do was get the food in the box. The wind wouldn't turn it over. It wouldn't go out of focus. It would cook. If the food went in the morning, we'd serve it hot at noon."

Barbara Kerr and Sherry Cole have a business doing workshops on request and selling kits and assembled solar box cookers. From them Bob Metcalf in Sacramento, CA started using a cooker and for several years has gotten pilot demonstrations going in Africa and Central America.

(The plans we've used and the accompanying graphic are put out by the group he's involved in, Solar Box Cookers International -plans are also available in a Spanish edition). Mark Aalfs is a part of a group in Seattle, WA formed within the last year to promote solar cooking worldwide. (Interview from Solar Box Cookers Northwest Newsletter, Oct/Nov 89).

And what are we doing in Wendell? We've made five cookers using the basic design; mine last fall out of materials left from home-building and two each at two workshops this summer out of materials suggested in the the plans: cardboard, crumpled newspater, aluminum foil, and glass. Joann Aalfs put together a display for the Wendell Earth Day observance which then could become part of the display we had at Wendell Old Home Day in July where a big batch of granola was cooking in one box and beans in another. The latest solar box I've heard about is being adapted from a soapstone sink and a blueberry pie was being cooked in it!

Do they work in this cool and woodsy part of the world? Selectively--Required are: places that are not in the shade of trees, hills, buildings (I sometimes have to move my cooker a couple of times to keep it out of shade); clear sun (I've become very aware of how many off and on cloudy days we have); and dark pots with lids (yes, covers over bread and cakes, otherwise you have to keep openning the cooker to wipe off condensation inside the window.) The temperature in mine gets up to 200-250 degrees. A look at slow- cooker/crock/pt cookbooks en lighten one on how many thing can be cooked at this low a temperature.) I've gotten so I regularly do granola or rice in the solar box cooker. As long as they can be several hours in mid-day sun, each can be left without having to be stirred or concern about burning, so I can go off about other things. Gingerbread, blueberry cake and rye-bread have each done well, too, but I've kept an eye on them and taken them out when done. How long a season? I thing it's probably from when I don't need a little fire in the wood stove in the wood stove in the morning to take the chill off in the spring to when I do in the fall!

Contact me if you want further info.

Dor 544-8961

☆ STAR ROUTE RIDERS ☆

There was a good response to the initial Star Route Rider questionnaire that went out to every resident in town. Over 50residents became members and will be receiving their first ride-sharing bulletin in mid- september. If you'd still like to become a member before the first publication there is still time to return your questionnaire. If you decide to become a member at a later time, just send in a questionnaire and you will be added on in the next bulletin which should go out in another four months. Questionaires will be located at the library and post office.

Other exciting Star Route Rider projects in the works:

1. a rideboard located at a public location for long distance trips in the Northeast and destinations further a field. This is being created by Laura Kaye.
2. Robbie Heller acquired for Star Route Riders a computer modum to access his computer files which will keep up-to - date star rt. rider information. This modumwill also be located at a public location for members to update the bulletin of their changing schedules and to view the updated listings.
3. An idea was suggested to have hitching posts at known public locations in surrounding towns where Wendell residents might keep a look out for other townfolks needing a ride back to Wendell. Keep a look out at these locations:

Greenfield:	outside of library
Amherst:	U-Mass bus stop across from Grad Research Tower
Orange:	Getty gas station in center

4. The September coffeehouse will be a fundraiser for SRR.

Another exciting transportation development is that Wendell residents can now partake of any remaining available seats on the senior van that comes to Wendell on the third Thursday of each month and does a round trip to Greenfield. The van leaves town at approx. 9:30 and returns by approx. 2:00p.m. The seniors are generally dropped off at the Mohawk Plaza and by appointments a rider may be dropped in the center of town if need be and make arrangements with the driver to be picked up at a scheduled time for the return trip. The trip include stopping for lunch at a local restaurant before returning home. If you are interested to come along, call Lucille Lewis at 544-6317 by 9:00a.m. on the Wednesday before the 3rd thursday of each month. She will let you know if there are any available seats and where to meet the van. Generally, there are two or three free seats The cost of this service is $2.00 for the round trip. This is a wonderful way to get errands done and socialize too.

We view SRR as a service that is in its early stages of evolvement and are currently looking at a further development to make the network more secure as concerns have been expressed about publicizing one's schedule. This network would be based around having a central dispatch person. Members would call in their ride offering or needs to the dispatchperson and would then be hooked up with others who share that same destination. In order for this possibility to work, we would need someone who could have a regular schedule for a daytime operation in order to person a phone for that kind of dispatching. The hours could be very limited. The computer modem previously mentioned could be used in that person's home to access the information quickly and tofacilitate the information storing process. If you are interested in having this job (a stipend may well be available) or have any other ideas to better Star Route Riders,

call me 544-8457

Joyce Greenberg

The Other Economic Summit...

continued from pg 1

This year, as you know, the G-7 Economic Summit was hosted by George Bush in Houston this July 9 - 10. TOES was there too, with a three day program entitled, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE FOR A CHANGE. In contrast to the exclusive and excluding summit of the G-7 leaders, representing but 12 per cent of the world's people, TOES was an open forum representing the remaining 88 per cent. Well, that's a bit overstated, but we did draw participants from 27 different countries, as well as under-represented constituencies from within the G-7 -- Indigenous Peoples, the poor, people of color, women, etc. In all, there were over 400 "active" participants directly involved in presenting plenary addresses, panel discussions, and workshops, and over 1000 people attending the various programs presented each day.

We have been actively involved with TOES since 1986, and with that perspective, consider this year's TOES a tremendous success. We see an impressive maturation in the significance and sophistication of the content presented and the stature of the people attending and taking an active part in articulating that message.

The program was far to rich and varied to capture in a short report like this, but we do want to share with you some of the highlights and excitement we felt being there.

Houston TOES was organized around three central interrelated themes, each given a full day of programming. The first day (Friday) was called "Changing World: Listening for a Change" and gave voice to international (particularly non G-7) perspectives on global economic issues including third world debt, poverty, international trade, and economic conversion from a global war economy to a peace economy. The program featured a "Populist Leaders Summit with prominent leaders of "peoples movements" from Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, South Africa, and the USA. (Jesse Jackson was to have represented the USA, but cancelled out at the last minute, leaving Mel King of Boston to represent the Rainbow Coalition".) Also featured on Day One was "The Summit of Witnesses from Seven of the World's Poorest Peoples", which highlighted the enormous contrast with the seven richest, and featured witnesses from Bangladesh, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Native America, Nigeria, the Philippines,and Puerto Rico.

Day Two (Saturday) was devoted to "New Perspectives on Ecology and Economy" and focused on redefining prosperity, environmental accountability, energy and the environment, sustainable development, the eastern European environmental situation, corporate social and environmental responsibility (the Valdez principles), Organized labor, toxics, and the environment, global warming, ... wow, it was really a packed agenda! Day Two included "The Envirosummit" in which the "Group of Ten" (world's largest and most influential environmental organizations) presented their plans for an ongoing evaluation and environmental report card on the G-7, the World Bank, and the IMF. Another noteworthy Day Two event was the "Energy and Environment Summit", which brought together the worlds leading experts on energy systems analysis. (Energy systems analysis is a way of looking at transactions in terms of the net energy gains and losses rather than the economic costs and benefits.) One interesting conclusion from that gathering was a demonstration that, in terms of net energy transfer, the entire third world debt which totals in the 100 billions has been repaid 8 times over!

On Saturday evening we were entertained and educated by Amherst native Amory Lovins with a talk on "Combating Global Warming for Fun and Profit." With polished precision, he demonstrated that a 50 percent reduction in current energy consumption with no reduction in levels of service is possible utilizing existing proven technologies and the existing market system (conservation saves money, is profitable, and for businesses has a very favorable return on investment.) Switch your incandescent bulbs to high frequency florescent. They last 9 times longer and use only 20 per cent of the electricity. A country-wide switch to this form of lighting would eliminate the need for 25% of the current USA electrical power generation!

Day Three, (Sunday), "Democratizing the Economy" considered strategies, structural changes and policies to empower people to decide what kind of a world they want to live in and how they can act at individual, local community, regional, national, and global levels to move toward these positive visions of a sustainable and just future. Among the exciting events on this day was a panel on Gandhian Economics: Economics of Altruism vs. Economics of Greed, and another panel on World Religions Perspectives on Economics. There were several sessions on Regenerating The Economics of Community (a topic that Wendell could well take part in).

Regeneration of Community. A series of events under the banner, "Houston as Microcosm" demonstrated that the problems of poverty, grossly inequitable income and wealth distribution, environmental degradation, etc. were right here under the G-7 noses if they cared to look out the windows of their luxury hotel accommodations. There was even a tour of Galveston Harbor, perhaps the most polluted estuary in the United States, to remind folks of conditions in George Bush's home town, remembering his concern over the polluted Boston harbor during the presidential campaign.

It was quite a conference, and each of us there had to make reluctant choices on which of the vast array of interesting and vital issues and workshops to take part in. Large plenary sessions opened each day, giving everyone exposure to prominent speakers including Francis "Sissy" Farenthold (former Texas Gubernatorial candidate), Max Sisulu (African National Congress, South Africa), Luiz Ignacio "Lula" da Silva and Cuauhtemoc Cardinas, populist leaders and significant presidential candidates from Brazil and Mexico), Denis Hayes (International Chair of Earth Day 1990), Martin Khor Kok Peng (coordinator of the World Rainforest Movement and Vice President of Friends of the Earth, Malaysia), Howard T. Odum (renowned ecologist), Jean Gardner (founder, Environment 1990, New york City), Nancy Skinner (Berkeley Councilwoman and Chair of the Environmental Issues Caucus of the National League of Cities), Jim Hightower (Populist head of the Texas Department of Agriculture), Tony Mazzocchi (Secretary-Treasurer of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union), Amory Lovins (Energy guru of the Rocky Mountain Institute), Mel King (Rainbow Coalition and Boston community activist), Gladys Sibrian (FMLN, El Salvador), Frederique Apffel Marglin (Shutesbury resident and Anthropology professor at Smith College). Even this lengthening list only begins to hint at the quality, diversity, and quality of speakers we got to share ideas with.

Several topics were continued over the three days because of their relevance and the interconnectedness of the issues. There were several sessions featuring "Feminist Perspectives on Economics, Ecology and the Environment, Sustainable Development, Cultural and Agricultural Survival, and

A 90 minute documentary, "TOES, VOICE OF THE PEOPLE FOR A CHANGE", is being prepared from over 30 hours of taped sessions and interviews. When that is available, we want to share it with OUR community, perhaps in a session at the Wendell Community Center. As we said at the beginning, we think Wendell is a remarkable example of creative community action and response to the challenges that face today's complex world. Wherever we travel, we proudly represent Wendell and people we meet are always amazed to hear our stories.

Don and Janee Stone

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FULL MOON COFFEEHOUSE

One of the many unique features of living in a community - oriented place like Wendell is having regular events that bring folks together to enjoy music, to socialize, and to support worth-while causes and organizations in and around town. The Full Moon Coffeehouse is such an event, which takes place monthly at Wendell Town Hall. The Coffeehouse is entering its seventh season, beginning on September 8th, with singer-songwriter Cyd Slotoroff as the featured performer. Some things have changed since its inception seven years ago, but the coffeehouse is still very much alive and growing here in Wendell

The Full Moon Coffeehouse began as a fund-raiser for Wendell Concerned Citizens, which became the Bear Mountain Preservation Society, an organization that successfully opposed a state plan to re-route Rte 2 through Wendell State Forest on Bear Mountain. Two years ago, their need for funds no longer as critical, Bear Mountain relinquished responsibility for the Coffeehouse, and an independent committee was formed. It was decided that the Coffeehouse would continue to operate as a community service by offering a portion of its proceeds each month to a chosen organization, with the remainder going to the performer. Some of the groups that benefited last year from the Coffeehouse were the Millers River Monitoring Project, the Wendell Free Library, the Wendell Post, NELCWIT (a center for battered and abused women), the Village Food Cooperative, and Veterans Education Project. Each beneficiary is responsible for setting up the now-famous "dessert-o-rama" bake sale, and for giving a short on-stage presentation about the organization. (Last year's Wendell Post skit was particularly memorable!). This year's beneficiaries will include Star Route Riders, Quabbin Protective Alliance and Audubon Expedition Institute. Each month, the format of the Coffeehouse consists of a one-hour Open-Mike, which starts at 7:30, and is followed by a featured performer. The featured act is divided into two sets, with an intermission that allows families with tired children to get them home to bed and still be able to see at least some of the main act. The featured performers are selected by the Coffeehouse Committee in several ways. There is an ever-growing stock of tapes and promotional packages that arrive regularly from artists who literally come from all over the country. Some of thise artists are "big names" in the folk music world, and it's a great tribute to the success and reputation of the Full Moon Coffeehouse that so many people want to come here to play. Last year's line-up included Cindy Kallet, Fred Koller, and Lui Collins, all of whom thought Wendell was a pretty special place. There's also a wonderfully talented group of local performers and musicians, who have played the Coffeehouse in the past and will be invited to come back again. (For example, Court Dorsey and friends will be back this year for another Cabaret evening in November.) In planning a season's worth of Coffeehouses, the Committee tries to strike a balance between the famous, the not-yet famous, and the not-trying-to-be-famous, while at the same time presenting a variety of musical styles and traditions, with a few laughs thrown in for fun. Besides Cyd and Court, this year's Coffeehouses will also feature Dr. G's Good-

time Band for a New Year's Eve dance, Michael and Katie Bloomfield with a few friends, and possibly Patti Larkin in the spring.

A special feature of the Coffeehouse over the years has been the Open Mike, which gives musicians and other folks with something to share an audience. Anyone wishing to perform on the Open Mike is asked to show up between 7 and 7:15 on the night of the show so that a schedule can be made. Members of the Committee do receive phone calls before an upcoming Coffeehouse from people wanting to do the Open Mike, but the show is never really "full" until the musicians actually arrive. This year, every effort will be made to keep the Open Mike "open".

By its nature, the Open Mike is unpredictable; sometimes there are far more acts than will fit into an hour, and sometimes the emcee is pulling people out of the audience (willing victims only, of course!) Amazing things have happened during Open Mikes in the past, ranging from an astonishing voice, to a highly creative skit, to professional quality musicianship. Once again, the Full Moon Coffeehouse's reputation has spread beyond the borders of Wendell, and people are coming from as far away as Boston, Vermont, and Connecticut, just to do the Open Mike.

With all the growth and expansion that the Full Moon Coffeehouse has experienced over the last couple of years, there has been some concern in town that the Coffeehouse no longer "belongs" to wendell. It is true that the faces in the audience have become somewhat less familiar, although there are those loyal neighbors who never miss a night. It's an issue that the Coffeehouse Committee has spent a lot of time thinking about and discussing. How do we maintain the special flavor of a Wendell community event, and still reach out to the larger world, who wants to participate with us? We do think it's important for the continued health and well-being of the Coffeehouse to bring in one or two "big names" throughout the year. It is also our intention to continue to serve this community by presenting local musicians, by benefiting local groups, and by offering the Open Mike as a forum for ideas as well as entertainment. We invite suggestions about how we can best do this, and we invite anyone who wishes to participate more directly to join us on the Committee Meetings are generally held on the Sunday after each Coffeehouse, at 8 PM at Matt and Laurie Stamell's house. This year's coordinator is Michael Bloomfield and other Committee members are Joshua Jay, Katie Bloomfield, Myron and Kathy Becker, Matt and Laurie Stamell, Andrew Kinsey, Greg Stone, Ed Boland, and Jean Strom. For information about the Coffeehouse, or to offer a suggestion, any Committee member can be contacted, or call Michael at 544-7849. We also have a mailing address, which is Box 72, in Wendell Center.

Once agin, we look forward to another outstanding year of the Full Moon Coffeehouse, and we hope to see you all there. Please join us ---it is Wendell's own.

Katie Bloomfield

DRIVERS SLOW DOWN!

Are you among the many who drive on Wendell roads each day? Then, congratulations, that means you have lived to the ripe old age of at least sixteen and one-half! Most of you probably drive safely too, obeying speed limits, giving turn signals, stopping at those big, red STOP signs, watching out for pedestrians, and so on, at least, most of the time. That's good enough, right? I mean sometimes you've got to impress the girls; then there's that dentist appointment you're going to be late for; and heaven forbid if the alarm doesn't go off!

Well, most of the time isn't good enough. You see, here on Locks Village Road; you know, where the Wendell Country Store is; there are at least thirteen children living between the library and the Bardsley house. They range in age from infancy to early teens. AND they would like the chance to live to get their driver's license! So would all their friends!

The Wendell Country Store, Post Office, library, and that wonderful common are often visited by the town children, and others, on bikes and on foot. Sure the kids should be careful, but, let's face it, they can be impulsive! It takes seconds for a child to run out in front of a car. No car can stop that quickly and with the tall underbrush that grows along most of our roads, a driver is unlikely to see a small child until it is ...too late, Would you want to live with that the rest of your life?

Wendell is a pretty great place to live. Most people are tolerant and respectful of a variety of life styles. Let's respect the children also. We drivers are older, more mature, more experienced, more thoughtful, and more careful, right?
Let's give the kids the chance to get where we are now... SLOW DOWN!!!!

Elizabeth Golding
William Golding

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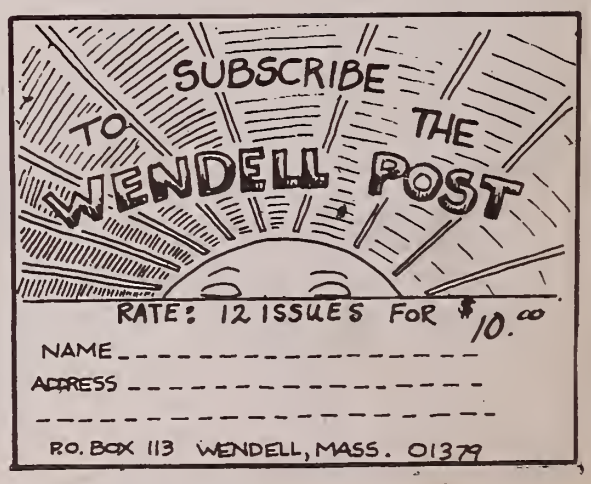
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